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[Signature]  
ATTENTION: BOX AFTER FINAL  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED  
EXAMINING GROUP 1600

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 2405.0167

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mads Liendgaard Vigh et al.

Application No.: 09/255,655

Filed: February 23, 1999

For: USE OF D-TAGATOSE AS A  
PREBIOTIC FOOD COMPONENT

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)  
) Group Art Unit: 1623

)  
) Examiner: H. Owens, Jr.

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SEP 06 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

REPLY

This reply is filed in response to the final Office Action of June 6, 2001. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the remarks below are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Zehner (U.S. Patent No. 4,786,722) in combination with Morelli (U.S. Patent No. 5,709,857), MacFarlane et al. and Mortensen et al. This rejection is traversed.